

CALIFORNIA POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION COMMISSION



PRESS RELEASE

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History In The Making: CPEC To Travel To Mexico And The Imperial Valley To Meet With Mexican Education Leaders

September 26, 2001 – Sacramento – The California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC), meeting on October 1 and 2 will be one of historic significance. CPEC, the State's coordinating and planning body for postsecondary education, will hold a meeting for the first time in Mexicali, Mexico and the Imperial Valley.

As part of its dialogue, the Commission will meet with Baja California campus representatives, both public and private, as well as representatives of the Mexican federal government. The purpose of the discussion will be to increase understanding of border issues and bi-national policies affecting educational opportunity and student achievement.

Commission Chair Alan Arkatov pointed out that this meeting would be significant for a number of reasons. "President Fox's discussions with Governor Davis and the Legislature during his recent visit to Sacramento focused a great deal on the higher education issues impacting both California and Mexico. This will be the first time that a statewide education

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Commission has traveled to Mexico, and had such a meeting focused on international issues impacting postsecondary education. We will learn first hand, in cooperation with our neighbors to the south, of issues that we can mutually explore and attempt to resolve.”

In addition, a number of invited participants from several educational sectors and institutions are scheduled to speak. Included in the policy forum will be: Dr. Khosrow Fatemi, Dean of the Imperial Valley Campus of San Diego State University; Dr. Refugio Gonzalez, County Director, University of California’s Cooperative Extension program serving the Imperial Valley; Mr. Roberto Moreno, Superintendent of Schools for the Calexico Unified School District; and Dr. Gilbert Dominguez, Superintendent/President of the Imperial Valley College. Dr. Francisco Marmolejo, Executive Director of the Consortium for North American Higher Education Collaboration (CONAHEC), a tri-national consortium of colleges and universities seeking ways of increased collaboration and cooperation to facilitate educational opportunity and educational exchange with particular emphasis on border issues, will also address the Commission.

The Tuesday, October 2nd meeting will continue the dialogue, with exploration of mutual issues such as student and faculty exchange opportunities, tuition reciprocity, and other educational policy issues of mutual interest.

Universidad Autonoma de Baja California (UABC), one of Mexico’s leading universities, will host the meeting with Mexican officials, providing an opportunity for Commission members to explore mutual challenges and opportunities made available through partnerships on both sides of the border.

The Calexico and Mexicali areas are pertinent as they provide a point of mutual entry to thousands of people daily. Mexicali is a growing area, with more than 600,000 residents, while Calexico, smaller in size, serves as part of a growing educational point of entry for many students with services provided by the Imperial Valley College located in Imperial, the University of California Cooperative Extension program located in Holtville, and the Imperial Valley Campus of San Diego State University located in Calexico.

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Items expected to be a part of the Commission meeting are:

- ♦ **A Policy Discussion on Regional Border Issues:** To focus on areas for collaboration and other issues of interest to regionally based colleges and universities.
- ♦ **Regional Higher Education Enrollment Demand Study:** An initial regional planning and projection model, Commissioners will consider regional needs and how to best accommodate Tidal Wave II.
- ♦ **Proposed Revised Guidelines for Review of Proposed New Campuses and Educational Centers:** As part of the Commission's ongoing interest in capital outlay and accommodating enrollment demand, staff will present recommendations for improving the review and funding process. The proposed guidelines provide direction for determining institutions' capital outlay needs in fulfilling their missions.
- ♦ **State Legislative End-of-Year Report:** The Commission will learn of the legislative activity during the first year of the 2001-2002 State legislative session.
- ♦ **The 2001-02 State Budget for Higher Education:** The Commission will hear a staff report including the highlights of the 2001-02 State Budget, with a focus on spending in the higher education and K-12 education budgets.

The meeting, made possible by a grant from the California Endowment, is scheduled to begin on Monday, October 1 at 1:00 p.m. at the Imperial Valley Campus of San Diego State University in Calexico, California in the Gallery Conference Room located at 720 Heber Avenue.

Complete agenda materials for the Commission's October 1 and 2, 2001 meeting are on the agency website at www.cpec.ca.gov.

Historic Meeting in Mexico, October 2001

